

Again, I thank Taiwan for the generosity they have shown to the United States during these difficult times. Relief funds are one of the most important ways in which help can be brought to the storm-stricken areas. I stand alongside the victims of this storm, as well as those who have already dedicated so much time and effort to rebuilding the region, in thanking Taiwan. These resilient people, with the assistance of the relief funds, will see a steady, efficient, and full recovery.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA) on their 100 years of continued leadership in and dedication to the nursing profession in Arkansas.

Nurses play a vital role in our health care system, providing essential patient care and improving the quality of their patients' lives. Nearly all—if not all—Americans have been or will be cared for by a nurse at some point in their lives. And, according to a recent survey by Gallup, nursing was recognized as the most trusted profession in the United States.

For their centennial celebration, ARNA has built their anniversary year around a celebration of "The Year of the Nurse," which has included a celebration of their past, their present, and their future. For the past 100 years, it has been the mission of Arkansas nurses to ensure a healthy Arkansas population and a stronger nursing profession, and with ARNA's service, education, and advocacy, the nursing profession has continued to improve the quality of care delivered throughout Arkansas's 75 counties.

Even after the centennial celebration has concluded, ARNA will continue their efforts in promoting and ensuring developments in advanced education, clinical competency, nursing research, and patient and nurse advocacy.

As ARNA celebrates its centennial anniversary, I honor the efforts of Arkansas nurses who have created a professional organization that continues to advance the nursing profession in Arkansas and throughout the country, and I look forward to another 100 years of their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. While I was unable to cast recorded votes on legislation considered by the House, I ask that the record reflect my intentions.

On Tuesday, November 27, the House considered the Senate amendment to H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act. On rollcall vote No. 609, final passage of H.R. 915 under suspension of the rules, I would have voted "yes."

The House also considered H.R. 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. On rollcall vote No. 610, final passage of H.R. 5997 under suspension of the rules, I would have voted "yes."

Further, on November 30, 2012, the House considered H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act. Unfortunately, I failed to cast a vote on final passage and I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 613, final passage of H.R. 6429.

CONGRATULATING BIGEYE CREATIVE, ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 2012 OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS FINALIST

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate BigEye Creative on being named one of Orlando Business Journal's 2012 Outstanding Small Business finalists. The award is intended to recognize small businesses which have shown significant community service and excellence in their field of work. Of 90 nominees, BigEye Creative was selected as one of three small businesses in the 1–25 employees category.

Founded in 2002, BigEye Creative is a full-service Orlando-based advertising agency, specializing in brand development, marketing and advertising, media buying, web design, social media management, search engine optimization, and video production.

The Orlando Business Journal's selections for Outstanding Small Business are based on individual firms' revenue, job growth, and community service. Celebrating its tenth year of business in Central Florida, BigEye Creative was recently named by Forbes as one of the Top 100 Global Ad Agencies that Know Social Media and Google. BigEye Creative, through a program called BigHeart, is also active in the Central Florida community, volunteering with organizations such as The Mustard Seed Furniture and Clothing Bank, Give Kids the World, and Christian Service Center for Central Florida.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate BigEye Creative's achievements and hard work. They are most deserving of being named Outstanding Small Business by the Orlando Business Journal.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNCIL ON AGING SENIOR CENTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Plymouth Council on Aging as the organization opens its new Senior Center.

The Plymouth Council on Aging first opened its doors in July 1973 following the passage of the Older Americans Act, a landmark piece of legislation which allowed local communities to fund supportive services for their senior citi-

zens. The Plymouth Senior Center was an instant success, and before long the organization began to see over 2,500 residents each month. The Center provided such vital services as health and wellness programs, legal assistance, community meals, and assistance with Social Security and Medicare benefits, to name a few. While the Council's board members were thrilled with this success, they realized that the organization was quickly outgrowing its facility on Court Street. After several decades of use, it became clear to both the Council's directors and its patrons that it was time to start planning a new facility that could better serve the needs of the town. Following more than a dozen years of working toward this goal, the Plymouth Council on Aging is proud to officially open its new facility this December.

This new Plymouth Senior Center will be better equipped to handle the needs of a large and diverse population of senior citizens. As Plymouth is home to more than 12,000 individuals over the age of sixty, this is certainly no easy task. The new building is conveniently situated next to Plymouth North High School, and students are excited to be able to more easily volunteer at the Senior Center. The Council on Aging will continue to provide many necessary services to Plymouth senior citizens, and all who are connected with this organization are excited to see its continued growth in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Plymouth Council on Aging for its many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Plymouth. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this accomplishment, and in congratulating the organization upon the opening of its new Senior Center.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR JOHN SHIPE AND HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major John Shipe, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Shipe will be moving on from his present assignment as a Congressional Liaison for the Army to Office of the Secretary of Defense to work on Reserve Affairs.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Major Shipe graduated from Jacksonville University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He later earned a Master's in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. His awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).

Following his graduation from Jacksonville University in May 2001, Major Shipe was commissioned in the Army Reserve as a Military Police Officer. His first assignment was with 351st Military Police Company in Ocala, FL where he served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He left his job as an